

# The TRiB

*A Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board Newsletter*

Active Member Edition ♦ Issue 33

September 2000



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT  
BOARD

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## Nominees Sought for Board Election

*Two active teacher terms to expire June 30, 2001*



The Teachers' Retirement Board, charged under Connecticut law with the management of the retirement system for public school teachers, is comprised of two state commissioners, five public members and five teachers. The teachers, three active and two retired, are elected by their peers for overlapping four year terms. The terms of incumbent active teachers, Mary Nicholas and Martin Rudnick will expire on June 30, 2001. Each incumbent is eligible to seek re-election for an additional four year term.

Active teachers who are interested in serving on the Board, which meets in Hartford approximately once a month during the school year, are invited to contact the Administrator of the Board in writing for details on the election procedure. Interested members will be furnished with instructions and forms for obtaining signatures on petitions that will establish a candidate's support among his/her peers. Active teachers who wish to be considered for election must obtain four hundred (400) petition signatures of active teachers. Completed petition packets must be returned no later than November 30, 2000.

A report of the petitions will be presented to the Retirement Board at its December meeting. The Board will certify the candidates who have qualified by meeting petition requirements.

On or about February 15, 2001, ballots with the names of active members who qualify as candidates will be mailed to all active members.

Election ballots must be returned to the Teachers' Retirement Board no later than April 15, 2001. The results of the election will be announced at the Board's June 2001 meeting. ♦

### Are You Retiring This Year?

If you are planning to retire in the 2000-2001 school year, you should file a complete Application for Retirement Benefits several months prior to your effective date of retirement. All additional service credit must be documented on the required forms prior to your effective date of retirement in order to be purchasable. To obtain an **Application for Retirement Benefits** and a **Pension & Additional Credit Worksheet**, contact this office or simply download the forms from our Web Site @ [www.state.ct.us/trb](http://www.state.ct.us/trb).

### In this issue:

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## Prior Connecticut Service

*Withdrawn teaching service credit may be purchased now*

Prior Connecticut Teaching Service is service that was previously credited to your account but was cancelled as a result of termination of service and the refund of the account balances. This type of service may be purchased at any time if you are an active or inactive member of the Teachers' Retirement Board.

The cost of Prior Connecticut Service is based on the amount you withdrew with credited interest from the date your account was last credited with interest to the date of repayment. The credited interest rate is the rate of interest that is posted to a member's account each June 30th and reflects what your account would have earned had it remained on deposit with TRB. The rate varies from year to year and is based on the interest earnings of the Retirement Fund.

Contact this office in writing for an invoice for your Prior Connecticut Teaching Service. Be sure to include your name, current mailing address, social security number and the town(s) where you previously taught with the dates of service. You will receive written notification from our office advising you of the amount of credit to be purchased and your payment options. You will be given the choice to make a lump sum payment or to make payment through monthly payroll installments from your salary. The minimum time period for monthly installments is 10 school months. The maximum time period may not exceed 100 months.

Installment payments are treated as **"after-tax"** contributions and therefore do not reduce your salary for federal or state tax purposes. You will receive credit when the entire balance of your installment purchase has been completed. Your annual statement of benefits will reflect the payments you have made on your installment purchase, however, your account will not be credited with the service until payments have been completed. ♦

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## Current Leave of Absence

*What you should know before taking a leave*

The Teachers' Retirement Act gives you the opportunity to purchase retirement credit for formal leaves of absence granted by your employing board of education.

An absence due to illness for which you are receiving accrued sick leave as provided by Section 10-156 of the Connecticut General Statutes is not considered as a leave of absence.

You may elect to pay the monthly mandatory contributions while on your approved leave of absence for a total of ten (10) school months during your career for any leave occurring on or after July 1, 1986.

A **TRB Form 53X** must be completed by your employer and forwarded to this office a minimum of two months prior to the effective date of your approved leave. Upon receipt of this form, CTRB will notify you of the amount due and payment options. The amount due will be the 7% mandatory contributions based on the full-time annual salary rate you would have received if actively employed.

Payment options will be as follows:

- Equal monthly payments during the ten school months in which the leave began

or

- In a lump at any time during the ten school months in which the leave began

The payment must be completed by the last day of the approved leave period in order to be purchasable in this method.

**The salary paid or which would have been paid while you were on leave may not be used in determining your final average salary for purposes of computing retirement benefits. ♦**

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**Do you need more information? Contact our office or visit our Web Site @ [www.state.ct.us/trb](http://www.state.ct.us/trb).**

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999-2000 LEGISLATION

- The definition of "formal application of retirement was amended by deleting the requirement that a member submit his/her legal teacher's certificate as part of the application for retirement or disability benefits.
- A possible lump sum death benefit to the last survivor (member or coparticipant) under a Plan D Coparticipant Option will be provided. The death benefit is to be calculated in the same manner as Plan N, Normal Allowance in the event that the member and or coparticipant die before the funds have been depleted. This benefit will apply to any benefit under Plan D that becomes effective on or after January 1, 2001.
- All members who retire on or after January 1, 2001 will be required to have monthly benefit payments sent electronically to the financial institution of their choice.
- Starting January 1, 2001, the mailing date of retirement benefit payments will be changed from three business days prior the last day of the month to the next to the last business day prior to the day checks are payable.
- A retired member, surviving spouse or disabled dependent child of a retired member participating in Medicare Part A and enrolled in the Teachers' Retirement Board Health Benefits Plan will pay twenty-five percent of the basic plan's premium cost. Similarly, the state will pay twenty-five percent and the remaining fifty percent will be paid by the Health Insurance Premium Account.
- The subsidy paid to boards of education on behalf of retired members, spouses, surviving spouses, or dependent children will continue to remain at the rate in effect as of June 30, 2000. (\$110.00 monthly).
- A health insurance task force will be established consisting of the Chairperson of the Teachers' Retirement Board, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Insurance, the State Comptroller and their designees, four public members, two of whom shall be experienced in the management of large health insurance plans and two representatives of plan participants. The task force will study: (1) the long-term solvency of the fund, (2) the method of funding, (3) expected future levels of cost to the state, active teachers and retired teachers, (4) the level of benefits that should be offered and (5) the impact of an aging teaching population and its effect on the health program. The task force will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 15, 2000.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Senate Bill 619 *An Act Eliminating the Financial Penalty For Teachers Who Retire With Thirty-four Or More Years Of Service Or Thirty-three Or More Years Of Service* overwhelmingly passed the Senate. Unfortunately, the House failed to take action on this bill, thus ending any prospects for passage during the 1999-2000 session. It is expected that a similar bill will be raised during the next legislative session that will convene in January 2001.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### Ex-officio Members

Honorable  
**Theodore Sergi**  
Commissioner  
State Board of Education

Honorable  
**Patricia Wilson-Coker**  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

### Teacher Members

**Clare H. Barnett**  
**Chairperson**  
Active teacher, Danbury  
Board member since 1991

**Marion S. Jewell**  
Retired teacher, Stamford  
Board member since 1987

**Mary Nicholas**  
Active teacher, Vernon  
Board member since 1993

**Martin L. Rudnick**  
Active teacher, Milford  
Board member since 1993

**Rosalyn B. Schoonmaker**  
Retired teacher, Bridgeport  
Board member since 1979

### Public Members

**Eugene Cimiano**  
Hartford  
Appointed 1994

**Deborah Freedman**  
Simsbury  
Appointed 1993

**Martin M. Lilienthal**  
Meriden  
Appointed 1997

**Elaine T. Lowengard**  
Hartford  
Appointed 1994

**Augustine M. Masiello**  
Woodstock  
Appointed 1997

**William Sudol, Administrator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** When will CTRB mail my Annual Member Statement for the year 2000?

**A:** We anticipate mailing annual statements this year by the end of November.

**Q:** What was the annual interest rate posted on June 30, 2000?

**A:** The Teachers' Retirement Board at its meeting on June 14, 2000, adopted an interest rate of 14.20% to be applied to member account balances as of June 30, 2000.

**Q:** How should I notify CTRB of my new home mailing address?

**A:** Simply notify your **employer**. It will be your employer's responsibility to notify this office of the change via their next monthly transmittal report to CTRB.

**Q:** How do I update my beneficiary with CTRB?

**A:** Obtain an **Active Teacher Beneficiary Form** from this office. This completed form should be returned directly to CTRB for processing.

**Q:** Is it true that you no longer have to pre-file Plan D prior to retirement?

**A:** Yes. As of July 1, 1998, pre-filing of Plan D is no longer required. You should review your CTRB Annual Member Statement to verify that your beneficiary designation is current. For further information, obtain the **Survivorship Benefits Bulletin** from this office.

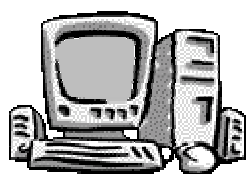
**Q:** I would like to set up a Voluntary Account with CTRB. What paperwork is required?

**A:** Members may initiate a CTRB Voluntary Account by completing **Form TRB-81 Voluntary Additional Retirement Authorization** with their payroll office. Unlike the mandatory contribution to CTRB, Voluntary deductions are made on an **"after-tax"** basis only.

**Q:** Under what circumstances may I apply for a refund of my contribution balances with CTRB?

**A:** You may apply for a refund of your contribution balances upon termination of your Connecticut public school teaching position. You may not apply for a refund while on a leave of absence or borrow funds from your account. When you withdraw your funds, you forfeit your right to any monthly benefit that you may be eligible to receive from this system. If you have a minimum of 10 years of service, be sure to understand the amount of the potential benefit you will be forfeiting by withdrawing your funds. For further information, obtain a **Refund Provisions Bulletin** and a **Withdrawal of Funds Application** from this office.

## Help is Available on the Internet



Do you have questions on your Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Membership? Are you contemplating retirement or just planning for your future? Do you need to know the types of purchasable credit available in this system? Do you require forms, applications or bulletins from this office? Does your schedule make it difficult for you to reach us during regular business hours?

Visit us on the World Wide Web @ [www.state.ct.us/trb](http://www.state.ct.us/trb).

Applications/Forms	Service Credit Documentation	Information/Bulletins	Information/Bulletins
Retirement Application	Outside State Service	Pension & Add. Credit Worksheet	Post Retirement Employment
Disability Application	Substitute Service	1% Supplemental and Voluntary	Divorce/Your CTRB Benefit
Withdrawal of Funds Application	Previous Leave of Absence	Prior CT Teaching Service	Social Security Information
Voluntary Application	State of CT Employment	Leave of Absence Information	Taxability of Retirement
Address/Name Change Form	Elected Official Service	Survivorship Death Benefits	Qualifying Service
Change of Beneficiary Form	Military Dependents School	Refund Provisions	Active Teacher Page
Current Leave of Absence Form	Federal Teacher Corp Service	Cost of Living Adjustments	Benefit Estimator (NEW)
FOI Objection Form	Part Time/Hourly Service	Health Insurance	What's New Page

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